

Washington, DC - 12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow today announced that the Burke County Sheriff's Department has been awarded a \$15,239 grant from the Department of Justice's Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne JAG). The money will be used to buy new law enforcement equipment and new computers for the Sheriff's Department.

"This grant will be a tremendous help to the Burke County Sheriff's Department," Barrow said. "As Burke County continues to grow, it's important that our local law enforcement officers have all the equipment and technology they need to continue doing their job."

Byrne JAG grants are designed to help state and local law enforcement agencies pay for a broad range of crime fighting programs. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis and can be used by state and local law enforcement agencies to promote local crime control initiatives, provide technical assistance and training, or pay for additional personnel, equipment, and supplies.

In the 2007 federal budget that President Bush submitted to Congress earlier this year, he proposed eliminating all future funding for the Byrne JAG programs. Congressman Barrow opposes efforts to reduce funding for local crime control initiatives, specifically Byrne JAG.

It is still unclear if funding for Byrne JAG will be available in 2007, as the final version of the

Science, State, Justice, Commerce, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act is still being debated in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

"As a former county commissioner, I know how important these grants are for local law enforcement," Barrow said. "The last thing Congress should do is cut programs like Byrne JAG. We need to give our local police more tools to fight crime - not take them away."

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